

## Hollywood

Hollywood, Dec. 28—Novelist-screenwriter Ernest Tidyman, with projected grosses of \$12,000,000 and \$30,000,000 on his first two films ("Shaft" and "The French Connection," respectively), probably will have six films in production during 1972.

The impact of Tidyman's sudden emergence as a big money writer here in Hollywood is reflected in the start of production next month in New York of his second "Shaft" film for MGM, tentatively titled "Shaft's Triple-Cross." It will be directed by Gordon Parks, who directed the first "Shaft."

Additionally, Tidyman's original screenplay for "The Donald Lang Story" has three studios negotiating with Shelley Davis and Shelley Brodsky whose NOW Productions, owns the property. Film will project an early spring start on Chicago locations.

Television is also getting on the Tidyman bandwagon, with ABC-TV setting "Paternity Suit," a Tidyman original as Ernest Tidyman Productions' first film-for-TV project. The writer will also produce this contemporary comedy-love story about a young model anxious to have a baby by her suitor, but not to marry him. The project is slated for San Francisco location filming this spring, with an unknown actress to be set for the lead, surrounded by top stars.

Additionally, his company has just acquired film rights to "The Hope Dancer," novel of behind-the-scenes intrigue and sudden death in the top-secret United States security network. Written by former CIA agent (for 15 years) Victor Marchetti, it was published by Grossett & Dunlap. The story has similar elements as Tidyman's "French Connection" hit, and several studios want Tidyman to write and produce the project for them through his company.

Rope Dancer ✓